

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 TRSE-00

IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAM-01 DRC-01 /151 W

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R 071515Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3751

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0083

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON WEU AS EUROPEAN DEFENSE
FORUM

1. IN FEBRUARY 7 CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
GASTON THORN, I ASKED IF THE FRENCH WERE STILL SUGGEST-
ING THE WEU AS A FORUM FOR A WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE
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ORGANIZATION. THORN REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, BUT

HE ADDED THAT LUXEMBOURG MIGHT DIFFER FROM THE USG ON HOW TO REACT TO THE FRENCH SUGGESTION SINCE THE GOL WOULD AT LEAST BE WILLING TO LISTEN TO FRENCH THINKING. THORN OBSERVED THAT THE WEU WAS EUROPE'S FIRST EFFORT AT MUTUAL SECURITY AND MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE THE MACHINERY WHICH WOULD ALLOW FRANCE TO AGAIN PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE. ACCORDING TO THORN, JOBERT HAS MENTIONED TO HIM SEVERAL TIMES THE NEED FOR THE EC COUNTRIES TO BEGIN THINKING ABOUT DEFENSE MATTERS ON THE THEORY THAT POLITICAL INTEGRATION CANNOT ADVANCE IF DEFENSE IS IGNORED.

2. THORN SAID THAT HE IS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT NATO IS THE BEST GUARANTOR OF WESTERN EUROPE DEFENSES FOR "AT LEAST TEN YEARS AND MAYBE UNTIL THE END OF THE CENTURY". BUT EUROPE SHOULD NONETHELESS BE BUILDING FOR THE DISTANT FUTURE, AND THORN SAID THAT THE GOL DOES NOT WANT TO REFUSE TO DISCUSS ANY PROPOSAL, ESPECIALLY FROM FRANCE, WHICH TENDS TO FAVOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. EVEN IF THE EC COUNTRIES NOW DISAGREE ON THE WAYS TO ASSURE THEIR DEFENSES, THORN SAID THAT A REJECTION OUT OF HAND OF A PROPOSAL TO DISCUSS SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF EC DEFENSE WOULD GIVE THE FRENCH A PRETEXT TO COMPLAIN THAT PARIS' EC PARTNERS WERE NEGLECTING A MAJOR ELEMENT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. THORN GAVE NO INDICATION HOWEVER THAT THE FRENCH WERE PRESSING THE EC TO MOVE TO AN AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF EC DEFENSES. FARKAS

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